

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. An assembly for rotatably and pivotally supporting an aerial ladder or boom, comprising:
 - a turntable adapted to be mounted on a vehicle for rotation about a vertical axis,
 - a first pair of upwardly extending parallel support flanges and a second pair of upwardly extending parallel support flanges extending upwardly from the surface of said turntable, the second pair of flanges extending to a substantially lesser elevation than said first pair of flanges;
 - a cradle formed by a pair of parallel cradle arms laterally spaced to support a base end of said ladder or boom therebetween and at least one cross member connecting said arms, each of said arms having an end pivotally connected to a flange of said first pair of flanges; and
 - a hydraulic cylinder pivotally attached to each of said cradle arms at a point spaced away from said first pair of flanges and an extendable-retractable rod projecting from each hydraulic cylinder and having an outer end pivotally attached to a flange of said second pair of flanges.
2. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cylinders are connected to said arms by means of aligned trunnion pins projecting outwardly from opposite sides of said cylinders.
3. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cylinder rods are not fully retracted into said cylinders when said ladder or boom is in the horizontal

position whereby an outer end of said ladder or boom can be lowered below the horizontal position.

4. An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said trunnion pins are attached to the exterior of a hoop which encircles and is welded to the body of said hydraulic cylinder.
5. An assembly according to claim 4, wherein said trunnion pins are positioned adjacent the end of said cylinder through which said rod extends.
6. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said hydraulic cylinders are double acting cylinders.
7. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cradle arms are bifurcated at the point at which said trunnion pins are attached, said cylinders being fitted between said bifurcations, each of which have an aperture through which one of said trunnion pins extends.